

SPECIFICATIONELECTRICAL CONNECTOR FOR PGA PACKAGE

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Field of the Invention

The present invention relates generally to an electrical connector for a PGA package for connecting the PGA package provided with pins for connection in grid array fashion (pin grid array package, and hereinafter also referred to as "package") to a printed circuit board and so forth.

Description of the Related Art

Conventionally, this type of the electrical connector for the package comprises a housing board in which a plurality of contact holes adapted for receiving the pins of the package are formed in grid array fashion, a plurality of terminals mounted on each of the contact holes, and a cover in which through holes adapted for insertion of the pins are formed in grid array fashion and slidably provided on the upper side of the housing board. The cover serves for insertion of the pins into the contact holes by zero insertion force. After inserting the pins into the contacts holes of the housing board through the through holes of the cover, the cover slides to move the overall pin grid array, i.e., the package, so that the pins and the terminals are electrically engaged (For example, see Japanese Patent No. 2689325).

Each terminal is formed into the configuration in which a solder tail is provided on the extension of a contact piece for engaging with each pin via an engaging portion for engaging with the housing board. This solder tail is usually formed into the pin shaped configuration adapted for dip soldering.

With the typical electrical connector for the PGA package, each terminal is formed into the configuration in which the contact piece, the engaging portion and the solder tail are continued in straight as set forth above. Therefore, it necessitates making the terminal length long, and making the thickness of the housing board generally similar to the length of the contact piece and the engaging portion to

encounter the problem that reduction of the height of the overall electrical connector is difficult.

Summary of the Invention

5 The present invention has been worked out in order to solve the problems set forth above. Therefore, it is an object of the present invention to provide an electrical connector for a PGA package having a structure adapted for reduction of the height thereof.

To accomplish the above-mentioned object, the present invention
contemplates the provision of structure in which the contact piece and the engaging
10 piece for engaging with the housing board are provided in parallel in place of structure of the terminal in which they are provided in straight.

An electrical connector for a PGA package may comprise: a housing board in which a plurality of contact holes adapted for receiving pins of the PGA package are formed in grid array fashion;

15 a plurality of terminals mounted within each of the contact holes;
a cover in which through holes adapted for insertion of the pins are formed in grid array fashion, and slidably provided on the upper side of the housing board; and
each of the terminals being located within the contact holes, and formed by independently arranging respective spring contact adapted for electrical engagement
20 with the pin and engaging piece engaged under pressure from a bottom surface of the housing board in parallel.

With the electrical connector for the PGA package according to the present invention, each terminal is formed by independently arranging respective spring contact and engaging piece in parallel. Accordingly, the length of the terminal can be
25 shorten without sacrificing the effective spring length of the spring contact, and the housing board can be also made low-profile.

Brief description of the drawings

The present invention will be understood more fully from detailed description given herebelow and from the accompanying drawings of the preferred embodiment of the present invention, which, however, should not be taken to be limitative to the invention, but are for explanation and understanding only.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is an exploded perspective view of a preferred embodiment of an electrical connector for a PGA package according to the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a partially enlarged top plan view of the preferred embodiment of a housing board according to the present invention;

Fig. 3 is a partially enlarged section showing the condition where the preferred embodiment of the electrical connector for the PGA package is mounted on a printed circuit board;

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the preferred embodiment of the electrical connector for the PGA package according to the present invention;

Fig. 5 is an illustration explaining the relative position of a cover relative to the housing board and a terminal, in the fallen position of an operating portion of the lever; and

Fig. 6 is an illustration explaining the relative position of a cover relative to the housing board and the terminal, in the risen position of an operating portion of the lever.

Description of the Preferred Embodiment

The present invention will be discussed hereinafter in detail in terms of the preferred embodiment of the present invention with reference to the accompanying drawings. In the following description, numerous specific details are set forth in order to provide a thorough understanding of the present invention. It will be obvious, however, to those skilled in the art that the present invention may be practiced without these specific details. In other instance, well-known structures are not shown in detail in order to avoid unnecessarily obscure the present invention.

Fig. 1 is an illustration of a preferred embodiment of an electrical connector for a PGA package 1, in disassembled condition. The assembled condition is shown in Fig. 4. The electrical connector for the PGA package I comprises a housing board 2, terminals 3 mounted on the housing board 2, and a cover 4 placed on the upper side of the housing board 2.

The housing board 2 is molded of dielectric plastic, a thin plate board as being quadrangular in a plan view. A mounting portion 6 of a lever 5 for sliding the cover 4 is formed along the rear edge of the housing board. Contact holes 7 passing through the housing board 2 are formed in grid array fashion over generally whole area of the other portion. The contact holes 7 formed in grid array fashion are located with offset for half pitch in the adjacent rows (transverse direction in Fig. 2) as shown in Fig. 2. They are located in staggered fashion as a whole. By this arrangement, it becomes possible to make the distance A indicated in Fig. 2 as short as possible (for example, 1.27mm).

The terminal 3 is mounted within each contact hole 7. The terminal 3 is stamped and formed of sheet metal, and includes a generally U-shaped spring contact 10 formed by a bottom piece 8 and a pair of contact pieces 9 and an engaging piece 11 extending in parallel with the contact pieces 9 from side of the bottom piece 8. The distal end of each contact piece 9 is inwardly bulged to form a contact portion 9a. Furthermore, a solder tail 12 is extended in parallel with the lower side of the bottom piece 8 from the other side of the bottom piece 8. As shown in Fig. 3, it is adapted for surface soldering on the surface of a printed circuit board 13.

In a bottom surface 2a of the housing board 2, engaging holes 14 are formed corresponding to the engaging pieces 11 adjacent to the contact holes 7 along the rows of the contact holes 7 (see Fig. 3). Each terminal 3 is mounted from the side of the bottom surface 2a of the housing board 2, and fixed by engaging under pressure
5 between the engaging piece 11 and the engaging hole 14. The engaging piece 11 is oriented in the foregoing direction of the row relative to the spring contact 10 of the terminal 3. The contact hole 7 are formed adapting to the stroke in which the cover 4 slides in the foregoing direction of the row. As a result, the spring contact 10 of each terminal 3 mounted on the housing board 2 is located on one side of each contact hole
10 7, and a space for inserting each pin 15 (see Figs. 2, 5, and 6) of a package (not shown) by zero insertion force is provided on the other side of each contact hole 7.

Next, the cover 4 is formed into the quadrangular plate configuration of which size is generally similar to that of the housing board 2 as shown in the drawings. in the preferred embodiment, the cover 4 is formed of metal sheet (aluminum, stainless steel
15 or the like). By forming the cover 4 with the side edge portion formed into channel shaped configuration in cross section as shown in Fig. 1, or with the side edge portion formed into reversed L-shaped configuration in cross section as shown in Fig. 4 for engaging with the side edge of the housing board 2, it is adapted for guiding the cover
4 to slide in the direction of arrow 16 by operating the lever 5.

Engaging portions 17 with the lever 5 are formed on opposite sides of the rear
20 edge of the cover 4. On a generally whole area of the cover 4, through holes 18 are provided in grid array fashion corresponding to the contact holes 7 of the housing board 2. The through holes 18 are adapted for insertion of the pins 15 of the package, and formed by combining counter bores 19 on the surface side and straight holes 20
25 on the lower surface side. The rear edge portion of the cover 4 is constructed by mounting a stiffener 21 with rivets 22 in Fig. 1. However, it is formed as an integrally molded structure in Fig. 4. The cover 4 formed of metal sheet is coated by insulating coating such as oxide film or the like to prevent from electrically conducting with the pins 15 inserted into the through holes 18.

As shown in Fig. 1, a crank bar portion 23 and an operating portion 24 are continuous into the L-shaped configuration to form the lever 5. The center section of the crank bar portion 23 is inserted into the mounting portion 6 of the housing board 2, and opposite end portions thereof are inserted into elongated holes 25 formed in the engaging portions 17 of the cover 4. The reference numeral 26 denotes a snap ring. By rise and fall of the operating portion 24 of the lever 5 as indicated by arrow 27 of Fig. 4, the cover 4 can slid in the back and forth direction as indicated by arrow 16. This sliding direction is made consistent with the rows of the contact holes 7 and the terminals 3.

As set forth above, a plurality of the through holes 18 are formed in the cover 4 in grid array fashion. However, in the portion where the through holes are essentially formed, some portions are left as blanks 28 without forming the through holes in grid array fashion. Furthermore, portions 29 in which no contact hole 7 is formed are also left in the housing board 2 corresponding to the blank portions 28. On the side of the bottom surface 2a of each portion 29 in which no contact hole is formed, a projection 30 is formed as shown in Figs. 2 and 3. A nail portion 32 of a compliant pin 31 is engaged under pressure with each projection 30 from the side of the bottom surface 2a, and the compliant pin 31 is projected from the bottom surface 2a of the housing board 2.

Fig. 3 is an illustration showing the condition where the foregoing preferred embodiment of the electrical connector for the PGA package 1 is mounted on the printed circuit board 13. Each compliant pin 31 projecting from the bottom surface 2a of the housing board 2 is engaged with an engaging hole 33 of the printed circuit board 13. In conjunction therewith, the solder tails 12 of the terminals 3 arranged in staggered fashion along the bottom surface 2a of the housing board 2 surface soldered to circuit pads (not shown) of the printed circuit board 13.

Figs. 5 and 6 are illustrations showing the relative position of the cover 4 relative to the housing board 2 and the terminals 3 in the risen and fallen positions of the operating portion 24 of the lever 5. Namely, Fig. 5 is an illustration showing the condition in the fallen position of the operating portion 24. The cover 4 is slidingly

moved as indicated by arrow 16a to move to the position where the through hole 18 of the cover 4 is matched with the spring contact 10 of the terminal 3. Fig. 6 is an illustration showing the condition in the risen position of the operating portion 24. The cover 4 slides as indicated by arrow 16b to move the through hole 18 to the position corresponding to the side of the spring contact 10.

When the package is connected to the printed circuit board 13 via the electrical connector for the PGA package 1, the package is placed on the cover 4 after the operating portion 24 of the lever 5 is risen, and the pins 15 are inserted into the contact holes 7 via the through holes 18 of the cover 4. Each pin 15 is entered into the side of the spring contact 10 of each terminal 3 to be inserted by zero insertion force.

Next, when the operating portion 24 of the lever 5 is fallen, the cover 4 slides in the direction of arrow 16a of Fig. 5. Accordingly, the pins 15 and the overall package slide in the identical direction, so that each pin 15 is moved to the position of the spring contact 10 of the corresponding terminal 3. As a result, the pins 15 are engaged with the contact portions 9a of the contacts 9 to be electrically conducted, and placed into the condition where they are connected with the circuit of the printed circuit board 13 via the terminals 3.

Each terminal 3 is formed by independently arranging respective spring contact 10 and engaging piece 11 in parallel. Therefore, the contact pieces 9 can achieve the spring characteristics by defining the overall length generally similar to the thickness of the housing board 2 as the effective spring length, and establish certain electrical conduction between the pins 15.

Furthermore, since the overall length of the effective spring length of the contact piece 9 can be made generally similar to the thickness of the housing board 2, the length of the contact piece 9 and the thickness of the housing board 2 can be reduced as long as spring performance necessary for electrical conduction can be provided. Therefore reduction of height of the electrical connector for the package 1 can be achieved. Furthermore, by shortening length of the contact piece 9, the inductance of the terminals 3 can be made small to contribute to the high speed communication of the signal. It should be noted that the cover 4 formed of metal sheet

also contributes to reduction of height of the electrical connector for the PGA package
1 Because, the cover 4 can provide necessary strength as the cover, even if it is
formed of thin plate.

5 When the pins 15 of the package are moved on the side of the spring contacts
10 of the terminals 3 by operating the lever 5 as set forth above, the stress is exerted in
the sliding direction relative to the terminals 3 and the housing board 2. The
compliant pins 31 engaged with the printed circuit board 13 can mainly resist this
stress.

10 Accordingly, it becomes possible to prevent the excessive stress from acting
on soldering portions of the solder tails 12 of the terminals 3, and causing the
incomplete connection such as peel of f of the soldering portions and so forth.

Upon releasing the connection condition of the package, the operating portion
24 of the lever 5 is to be risen. when the operating portion 24 is risen, the pins 15 are
moved to the side of the spring contacts 10 as indicated by arrow 16b in Fig. 6 to
15 remove the package without necessitating large withdrawal. Again, the compliant pins
31 can protect the soldering portions of the solder tails 12.

In the foregoing preferred embodiment, the contact piece 10 of each terminal 3
is formed into the generally U-shaped configuration by the bottom piece 8 and a pair
of the contact pieces 9, but not limited to this configuration. It may also be
20 constructed such that one contact piece is provided to be pressed each pin 15
thereinto.

With the construction in which each pin 15 is clamped by a pair of the contact
pieces 9 as set forth in the preferred embodiment, there is no relationship between the
stress due to slide of the cover 4 and electrical conducting condition to establish
25 certain conduction.

Furthermore, the solder tail 12 of each terminal 3 is also not limited to the
configuration adapted for surface soldering. The pin shaped solder tails may be
inserted into the through holes of the printed circuit board 13 and soldered by dip
method The arrangement density of the compliant pins 31 is set in consideration of
30 the stress exerted on the terminals 3 and the housing board 2 by sliding the cover 4. It

is considered to be suitable that they are distributed in the density of about one tenth of arrangement density of the terminals 3.

In the construction as set forth above, since each terminal is formed by independently arranging respective spring contact and engaging piece in parallel, the length of the terminal can be shorten, and the housing board can be also made low-profile by providing the effective spring length of each spring contact to the extent necessary for electrical conduction between the pins of the package. Accordingly reduction of the height of the electrical connector for PGA package can be achieved.

Each pin of the package is clamped by a pair of the contact pieces to establish certain electrical conduction.

Furthermore, it is possible to provide the electrical connector for the PGA package adapted for mounting on printed circuit board by surface soldering. Still further, the compliance pins can resist the stress exerted on the terminals and the housing board by sliding the cover to protect the soldering portions of the solder tails.

Although the present invention has been illustrated and described with respect to exemplary embodiment thereof, it should be understood by those skilled in the art that the foregoing and various other changes, omissions and additions may be made therein and thereto, without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention. Therefore, present invention should not be understood as limited to the specific embodiment set out above but to include all possible embodiments which can be embodied within a scope encompassed and equivalents thereof with respect to the feature set in the appended claims.

What is claimed is

1. An electrical connector for a PGA package comprising: a housing board in which a plurality of contact holes adapted for receiving pins of said PGA package are formed in grid array fashion;

5 a plurality of terminals mounted within each of said contact holes; a cover in which through holes adapted for insertion of said pins are formed in grid array fashion, and slidably provided on the upper side of said housing board; and

each of said terminals being located within said contact holes, and formed by independently arranging respective spring contact adapted for electrical engagement with said pin and engaging piece engaged under pressure from a bottom surface of said housing board in parallel.

2. An electrical connector for a PGA package as set forth in claim 1, wherein each of said terminals includes a generally U-shaped spring contact consisting of a bottom piece and a pair of contact pieces and said engaging piece extending in parallel with said contact pieces from one side of said bottom piece.

3. An electrical connector for a PGA package as set forth in claim 2, wherein each of said terminals includes a solder tail adapted for surface soldering extending from said bottom piece constructing said spring contact, and projecting from said bottom surface of said housing board.

20 4. An electrical connector for a PGA package as set forth in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein said housing board further includes a compliant pin projecting from said bottom surface .